

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 /041 W

----- 058829

R 270626Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8897

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 0476

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, MY

SUBJ: ELECTRICAL WORKERS DETAINED

REF: K.L. 0465

1. LOCAL PRESS JAN 26 REPORTED ARRESTS OF ELEVEN NATIONAL ELECTRICITY BOARD (NEB) WORKERS WHO ARE ACCUSED OF INSTIGATING WILDCAT STRIKES AND DISRUPTIONS IN ELECTRICAL SERVICE (REFTEL). WORKERS WERE DETAINED UNDER CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE WHICH ALLOWS DETENTION FOR UP TO 15 DAYS PENDING INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTS. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL LAWYER, ILLEGAL STRIKES AND OTHER "ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS" CAN BE CONSTRUED AS CRIMINAL ACTS UNDER MALAYSIAN CRIMINAL CODE.

2. PROTESTS BY NEB WORKERS AGAINST HARUN REPORT SALARY SCALES AND WORKING CONDITIONS CONTINUE. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, SOME FACTORIES IN KUANTAN, PAHANG, WERE FORCED TO CLOSE AND FREQUENT BLACKOUTS WERE REPORTED IN OTHER URBAN CENTERS OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA. IN SPEECH JAN 27, DEPUTY INFORMATION MINISTER SHARIFF AHMAD SAID GOVT MAY HAVE TO CUT BACK TV TIME AND HE ALLEGED THAT ILLEGAL INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY NEB EMPLOYEES IS "AIMED AT WEAKENING THE GOVT MACHINERY". HE ADDED THAT

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"FRUSTRATED POLITICIANS" ARE BEHIND THE NEB PROTESTS.

3. ALTHOUGH IT NOT KNOWN WHETHER ARRESTED NEB WORKERS WILL  
BE TRIED ON CRIMINAL OFFENSES, DETENTIONS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY  
DESIGNED TO BREAK BACK OF WORKERS' PROTESTS BY SETTING  
NEGATIVE EXAMPLE.  
UNDERHILL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR STRIKES, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975KUALA00476  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750030-0865  
**From:** KUALA LUMPUR  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750118/aaaaapun.tel  
**Line Count:** 67  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 0465  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUL 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** ELECTRICAL WORKERS DETAINED  
**TAGS:** ELAB, MY, NATIONAL ELECTRIC BOARD  
**To:** STATE  
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